

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 EA-10 EUR-12 /100 W
-----122394 181821Z /41

R 181112Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SECSTATE WASHDC 8604

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 4905

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, AF, JA

1. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY "KABUL TIMES" ANNOUNCED JUNE 13 THAT THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) HAD RECEIVED AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ENGINEER ABDUL HAMID MOHTAT AS AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN.

2. MOHTAT IS IN HIS MID-THIRTIES, AND MAJORED IN ENGINEERING IN THE SOVIET UNION FROM 1964 TO 1969. HE HAD ATTAINED THE RANK OF MAJOR OR LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE AFGHAN ARMY'S SIGNAL CORPS AT THE TIME OF THE MOHAMMAD DAOUD COUP IN 1973, DURING WHICH HE PLAYED AN INSTRUMENTAL ROLE. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY NAMED THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS.

3. MOHTAT WAS EXPELLED FROM THE CABINET IN APRIL, 1974, ESTENSIBLY FOR CRITIZING DAOUD'S LEADERSHIP, BUT MOST PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HIS LEFTIST POLITICAL ACTIVITY. HE IS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE REVOLUTION WHICH OVERTHREW DAOUD
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IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR.

4. MOHTAT IS A LONG-TIME LEFTIST AND MEMBER OF THE "KHALQ" FACTION OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF AFGHANISTAN. HE IS REPORTEDLY A CONFIDANT OF BABRAK KARMAL, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF AFGHANISTAN. MOHTAT SPEAKS RUSSIAN, ENGLISH, AND FARSI.

5. COMMENT: THE APPOINTMENT OF MOHTAT TO TOKYO IS
RELATIVELY PUZZLING SINCE THE NEW REGIME DOES NOT POSSESS
A PLETHORA OF TRUSTED LEFTISTS WHO HAVE HAD EVEN
AS MUCH ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AS THE NEW AMBASSADOR.
CONCEIVABLY, THE NEW LEADERSHIP MAY WISH TO TEST
MOHTAT'S LOYALTY DURING HIS "EXILE" IN JAPAN, SO FAR FROM
POLITICAL EVENTS IN THIS COUNTRY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL04905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780254-0770
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780646/aaaabobl.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1d0ac486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2305971
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADORIAL AGREEMENT
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, AF, JA, (MOHTAT, ABDUL HAMID)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1d0ac486-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014